

**In the Specification**

Applicant presents the replacement paragraph below indicating the changes with insertions indicated by underlining and deletions indicated by strikeouts and/or double bracketing.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 8 with the amended paragraph as follows:

This application claims the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) to U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/446,257, entitled "Method and Apparatus for the Standardized Creation of Permanent Enteral Stomas and Prevention of Parastomal Hernias," filed on February 11, 2003 ~~January 12, 2003~~, which is herein incorporated by reference in its entirety.